

Curarine in Tetanus

SIR,—As a result of my letter published in the *British Medical Journal* of December 22nd, 1934, I have been in touch with four cases of severe tetanus in the last six weeks. Of these, two were suitable for treatment with curarine. I should like to bring the series up to about a dozen cases, and to this end I should welcome any opportunity of seeing any severe cases which may arise in the near future.—I am, etc.,

University Department of Pharmacology, RANYARD WEST.
Oxford, March 5th.

"A Miracle of Healing"

SIR,—Apropos of the case described by Colonel Elliot last week (p. 447), I had twice previously examined a man whom the Press have recently proclaimed as cured of "blindness" by faith. This man had hysterical ptosis; he could see at any time by holding up his eyelids; and he has been "cured" on at least two previous occasions.—I am, etc.,

WILLIAM A. BREND,
Late Neurologist to the Ministry of
Pensions.
London, S.W., March 5th.

Medico-Legal

JUDGEMENT AGAINST NURSING HOME RESTORED

In the House of Lords on February 28th an appeal by Mr. William Norman Powell and his wife was allowed against the decision of the Court of Appeal in November, 1933, in an action against the Streatham Manor Nursing Home. The Court of Appeal had upset the judgement of the court below, which judgement was ordered by the House of Lords to be restored. The action was for personal injury done to Mrs. Powell, a patient in the home, by the negligence, as alleged, of the respondent's servant, and Mr. Justice Horridge had expressed the view that the injury was caused by the negligence of the sister in using an instrument. The facts of the case were stated in the *British Medical Journal* of December 16th, 1933 (p. 1146). A sum of £977 damages was awarded Mr. Powell with costs, and £2,500 with costs was awarded to Mrs. Powell.

The Lord Chancellor, in giving judgement, said that at the trial the respondents had set up the case that the injury must have been done by the surgeon in performing the operation. This was at variance with the evidence of the patient, and the judge had accepted her evidence. The evidence given was of a very contradictory character, and no one could have been in as good a position as the judge of first instance, who not only heard but saw the witnesses (as the Court of Appeal did not) to say where the truth lay. He quoted Lord Shaw as saying, in a case which reached the House of Lords in 1919, that "When a judge hears and sees witnesses and makes a conclusion or inference with regard to what is the weight or balance of their evidence, that judgement is entitled to great respect. . . . Witnesses without any conscious bias towards a conclusion might have, in their demeanour, in their manner, in their hesitation, in the nuance of their expression, in even the turn of the eyelid, left an impression upon the man who saw and heard them which can never be reproduced in the printed page." It was hardly possible, the Lord Chancellor continued, to conceive a better case than the present one, in which the judge of first instance had the advantage over the Court of Appeal in judging where the truth lay. There were contradictions on questions of fact between professional witnesses, and on expert evidence between witnesses called as to opinion. The Court of Appeal should be slow to upset the judgement arrived at by a judge who both saw and heard the persons giving evidence.

Assenting judgements were delivered by Lords Macmillan and Wright.

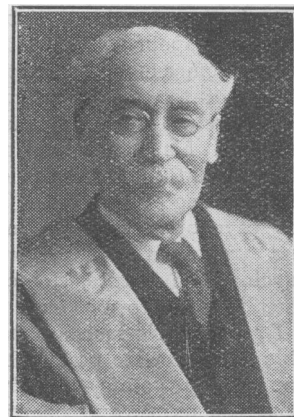
Obituary

SIR W. LESLIE MACKENZIE, M.D.

LL.D. Aberd., F.R.C.P.Ed.

The death took place on February 28th at his residence in Belgrave Place, Edinburgh, of Sir William Leslie Mackenzie, who had been in failing health for several years. Sir Leslie Mackenzie had a distinguished career in the Public Health Service, being at the time of his retirement in May, 1928, a member of the Scottish Board of Health.

He was born in Ross-shire in 1862, and after studying at Aberdeen University, graduated M.A. with first-class honours in 1883, gaining next year the Ferguson and Fullerton Scholarships in mental philosophy. Proceeding afterwards to Edinburgh University, he graduated M.B., C.M. with honours in 1888, and later became resident physician at the Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and subsequently assistant to the professor of physiology. In 1890 he took the Diploma in Public Health, and next year the certificate of the Medico-Psychological Society of Great Britain and Ireland. His career in the public health service began with a



short period as assistant medical officer of health in Aberdeen, and he was in 1891 appointed the first medical officer of health for the counties of Kirkcudbright and Wigtown, where he had to organize the public health service under the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1889. In 1894 he was transferred as medical officer of health to Leith, and did valuable service in connexion with the public health of this port. In 1895 he took the M.D. degree at Edinburgh, being awarded the highest honours, and in 1904 he joined the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh as a Member, proceeding to the Fellowship in 1909. He also became a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. In 1901 he had been appointed medical inspector under the Local Government Board for Scotland, and from 1904 till 1917 he was a medical member of this Board, becoming later, when the name of the Board was changed, medical member of the Board of Health for Scotland until his retirement in 1928. The University of Aberdeen recognized his public services by conferring upon him the honorary degree of LL.D. in 1912, and a similar academic distinction was conferred upon him by the State University of Kentucky in 1928. He received the honour of knighthood in 1919, and in 1922 was appointed by the Crown one of the members of the General Medical Council.

Not only was Sir Leslie Mackenzie a highly efficient medical officer of health, but he rendered many signal services to this department of medicine in organizing the earlier stages of several movements which have later developed into important sections of the public health service. One of the earliest of these activities was when, soon after he had joined the Local Government Board, he was asked, along with Professor Hay of Aberdeen, to give evidence before the Royal Commission (Scotland) on Physical Training. The result of the Commission's report in 1903 was the establishment of the medical inspection of school children, a matter which Sir Leslie Mackenzie

had long advocated. His book, *The Medical Inspection of School Children*, published in collaboration with Dr. Edwin Matthew, was the first attempt to give form and substance to this recommendation, although the services in respect of school children were only properly co-ordinated about 1919, after the Education Act of 1918. The practical result of his ideas and recommendation has not only been the gathering of an immense amount of valuable information regarding the health and physique of growing children, but has afforded a foundation upon which rests the work that is now being done for the improvement of future generations. At a later stage, about 1906, he took a considerable part in placing the movement for dealing with tuberculosis on progressive administrative lines. At that time there was very little provision for the institutional treatment of this disease, while to-day the institutions in Scotland devoted to tuberculosis contain about 5,000 beds.

As a Highlander, Sir Leslie Mackenzie took a special interest in the provision of medical services for the Highlands and Islands of Scotland: largely as a result of his advocacy the Highlands and Islands (Medical Service) Board was formed, and upon this he served for several years as a member. As a result of careful administration, encouraged by Government grants, the Medical Service of the Highlands and Islands, which provides treatment under great difficulties for a small population scattered over a wide area where transport is often extremely difficult, has become a model of its kind. Sir Leslie Mackenzie's intimate connexion with this development was recognized when in 1928 he was invited to Kentucky, U.S.A., to inaugurate a new hospital and nursing service that had been provided for the mountainous areas of that State, modelled on the Highlands and Islands scheme of Scotland. The Scottish scheme has also been followed in similar developments instituted in Canada, Newfoundland, and South Africa. Another department of administrative medicine which owes a great deal to the forethought and planning of Sir Leslie Mackenzie is the child welfare and maternity service. In 1915 he was asked by the Carnegie Trustees to prepare a report on the health of Scottish mothers and children, at a time when no official organization for a service in regard to them existed in Britain. His report, *Scottish Mothers and Children*, published by the Carnegie Trust in 1917, gave his ideas upon the steps that should be taken in regard to the development of such a service.

Sir Leslie Mackenzie also took a great deal of interest in the question of housing, which he regarded as of immense importance not only in respect of the amelioration of general social conditions, but as having a direct influence on the improvement of health, and he served as a member of the Royal Commission on Housing known as the Ballantyne Commission. His own opinion was that the housing movement was the most important matter in which he had played an effective part.

In addition to the great amount of administrative work which he transacted, Sir Leslie had a facile pen, and he was a frequent writer of philosophical and medical articles in periodical publications. His early interest in philosophy was evidenced by his contribution of the section on the nervous system in Professor Bain's *Senses and Intellect*, fourth edition. His report on the examination of 600 school children for the Royal Commission on Physical Training has been mentioned, and was embodied later in his book upon this subject. He also issued works upon the *Health of the School Child* (London, 1906), *Health and Disease*, and *Problems of School Hygiene* (Edinburgh, 1914). When the British Medical Association met at Edinburgh in 1898 he served as honorary secretary of the Section of State Medicine. At the Manchester meeting in 1902 he was vice-president of the Section of Public

Medicine, and at the Aberdeen meeting in 1914 vice-president of the Section of State Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence.

Sir Leslie Mackenzie is survived by his widow, to whom he was married in 1892; Lady Mackenzie is also well known as a social worker, having been for ten years a member of the Edinburgh School Board, as well as serving on numerous other public boards and being at present a member of the departmental committee which is investigating the health services of Scotland. The funeral service was held at the Edinburgh crematorium on March 2nd, and was largely attended by representatives from public bodies and the medical profession.

[The photograph reproduced is by Drummond Young, Edinburgh.]

HUGH EDWARD JONES, M.R.C.S.

Consulting Surgeon, Eye and Ear Infirmary, Liverpool

We regret to report the death of Mr. Hugh Edward Jones, who was well known in Lancashire and North Wales as an eye, ear, and throat specialist. From his medical student days at Guy's Hospital he had taken a keen interest in these subjects. He obtained the diploma M.R.C.S. in 1885, and the L.R.C.P. in the following year. He subsequently held the posts of clinical assistant in Guy's Hospital and also in the Royal London Ophthalmic Hospital, Moorfields. Until five years ago, when he retired, he had lived in Liverpool, and held many hospital appointments, including those of surgeon to the Eye and Ear Infirmary, the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary, Wigan, and St. Helens Hospital. He was also laryngologist to the North Wales Sanatorium. On his retirement he removed to Bangor, North Wales, where he became ophthalmic surgeon to the Caernarvonshire and Anglesey Infirmary. He designed the new ophthalmic department of that institution.

Mr. Jones became a member of the British Medical Association in 1894. In 1906 he was vice-president of the Section of Laryngology and Otology at the Annual Meeting in Toronto, and six years later was president of the Section of Otology at the Annual Meeting in Liverpool. He was also an ex-president of the Otological Section of the Royal Society of Medicine and of the North of England Ophthalmic Society, and a member of the Ophthalmological Society of London. He contributed various articles on his specialties to medical periodicals.

E. H. MONKS, L.R.C.P. & S.Ed., J.P.

Consulting Surgeon, Wigan Infirmary

The death occurred on February 23rd at Southport, in his 75th year, of Dr. E. H. Monks, honorary consulting surgeon to the Wigan Infirmary, after an illness of some duration. Born at Wigan in 1860, Elisha Hodgkinson Monks was educated at the Wigan Grammar School, Owens College, Manchester, and the College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, qualifying L.R.C.P. & S.Ed. and L.M. in 1881. He joined his father, the late Dr. J. Monks of Wigan, in 1884, and was in active practice up to his last illness. He was appointed honorary surgeon to the Wigan Infirmary in 1895, and on his retirement from the active staff in 1920, consulting surgeon. Continuing his association and keen interest in the institution, Dr. Monks was elected life vice-president in 1920, a trustee in 1926, and was chairman of the Board of Management from 1929 to 1933, and vice-chairman until his death. His interest in his profession did not end here. Dr. Monks was a very active member of the British Medical Association, and for many years represented Wigan at the Annual Meetings and went to the Winnipeg Meeting in 1930. He